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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/843,760	04/30/2001	Lawrence M. Besaw	10006612-1	9179

7590 01/15/2008
HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
Intellectual Property Administration
P.O. Box 272400
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400

EXAMINER

CHANKONG, DOHM

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2152

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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01/15/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/843,760

Applicant(s)

BESAW, LAWRENCE M.

Examiner

Dohm Chankong

Art Unit

2152

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 October 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 21-53 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 21-53 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

- 1> This action is in response to Applicant's amendments and arguments, filed on 10.31.2007. Claims 21, 26, 41 are amended. Claims 21-53 are presented for further examination.
- 2> This is a final rejection.

Response to Arguments

- 3> As to the §112 rejections, Applicant has amended the independent claims to now recite in part that the display filter is "not subject to editing by the service provider." Applicant points to Figure 2, asserting that there is no connection between the edit manager and the Filter Library that contains the display filter. Applicant also asserts the specification supports the limitation because there is no explicit disclosure that the edit manager edits the "display filter."

Any negative limitation or exclusionary proviso must have basis in the original disclosure. MPEP §2173.05(i). The mere absence of a positive recitation is not basis for an exclusion. Id.

The mere absence of a recitation that the edit manager does not edit the display filter is not basis for excluding the feature from the claim. Applicant's reliance on Figure 2 is also unpersuasive for several reasons. First, there is nothing in Applicant's specification that states that the edit manager must be connected to the filter library in order to be able edit the filter. Second, the edit manager is connected to the filter library through the module library. Third, following Applicant's logic, it is unclear how a customer would be able to access the

filter library and edit any of the filters stored therein. That is, if some component must be "connected" to the filter library in order to edit the filters, the figure and Applicant's specification fail to describe the needed component that would enable the customer to edit the filters.

Based on the foregoing remarks, the claims remain rejected under §112, first paragraph for lacking proper written description. There is no support in Applicant's specification that discloses that the service provider cannot edit the customer's display filter.

4> Applicant's other amendments to the independent claims do not overcome the cited prior art references. The amendments recite (1) parsing a user configuration database for a security filter stored in a customer configuration record; (2) said security filter definable by the service provider in accordance with what the customer is allowed to view; (3) parsing the customer configuration record for at least one management information module from a module library; and (4) a display filter definable by the customer in accordance with what the customer desires to view and not subject to editing by the service provider. The cited prior art references, Dobbins, Lim, and Szabo, disclose the new limitations.

As to (1), Dobbins discloses storing customer data in a database as a configuration record within a table structure [Figure 12 : "People" directory name which refers to "information about subscribers" | 0007 : database directory data model | 0087]. Dobbins further discloses applying a security filter in the form of determining whether the subscriber is authorized to access the network [0022]. Once the subscriber is authenticated, subscriber-specific policies, definable by the service provider and in accordance with what the subscriber

is allowed to view, are applied [0023 | 0024 : policies control subscriber's ability to "gain access to specific content and network resources"]. Thus, Dobbins discloses parsing a user configuration database (Dobbin's database), for a security filter (authenticating the user and applying appropriate policies) stored in a configuration record of the customer (Figure 12).

As to (2), the security filter was discussed above. To reiterate, Dobbins discloses authenticating the user (filtering unauthorized users) and retrieving subscriber-specific policies that control the subscriber's ability to access specific content and resources [0024]. These policies correspond to Applicant's security filter.

As to (3), Dobbins discloses parsing the customer's configuration record as discussed above. Additionally, Dobbins discloses parsing the record for a management information module [Figure 12 : disclosing network management information are stored in the configuration record]. Dobbins does not expressly disclose a module library. However, Dobbins does disclose that a user can select from a variety of available services [0024], some of these services including logging, billing and monitoring services [0028]. These services correspond to Applicant's modules. Additionally, a new ground of rejection is set forth for the claims to address this newly added limitation.

As to (4), Dobbins discloses that a customer defines a display filter in accordance with what the customer desires to view [0010 : subscriber can select premium content to view or receive specific content based on interests or relevance]. These preferences are stored as policies within the customer record. Dobbins does not expressly disclose whether the display filter is subject to editing by the service provider. Dobbins does teach that the personalization of the portal is controlled by the subscriber and that at the network provider's discretion,

some personalization controls can be administered. However, the network provider is not the same as a service provider. Szabo explicitly teaches that a subscriber's profile is private, accessible only to the subscriber [abstract : "physical and algorithmic controls over access to the personal profiles | column 41 «lines 1-9» where : the user controls who has access to his user profile]. Thus, Szabo expressly discloses that the profile is not subject to editing by any other entity.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

5> Claims 21, 22, 26-28, 30, 32, 37-39, 40-43, 45, 47, 52 and 53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dobbins et al, U.S Patent Publication No. 2002|0066033 ["Dobbins"], in view of Lim, in further view of Szabo, U.S Patent No. 7.181.438, in further view of Rangarajan et al, U.S Patent No. 6.275.225, ["Rangarajan"].

6> As to claim 21, Dobbins discloses a method for filtering on-line service information provided through a management portal to a customer of customized network services provided by network resources of a service provider via a service provider network, comprising:

parsing a user configuration database for a security filter stored in a configuration record of the customer [Figure 12 | 0022-0024];

applying to said service provider network said security filter definable by the service provider in accordance with what the customer is allowed to view [0024] and said security filter specifying network resources allocated to that customer [0009, 0024, 0043 where : Dobbins discloses policies controllable by the administrator that determine which content and network resources a particular subscriber has access];

applying to said network resources a display filter definable by the customer, said display filter specifying network resources for which said on-line service information is desired by the customer [0023-0026, 0039-0043 : after applying the authentication policy, Dobbins' system applies the subscriber's profile to further refine which content and services that the user desires]; and

executing at least one management information module to generate a portal display of on-line service information, wherein said at least one management information module operates only on those network resources of said service provider network which have not been excluded by said security filter and said display filter [0025, 0036, 0037 where : Dobbins' renderer delivers a portal containing the data and content refined by the user policies], and wherein the displayed on-line service information comprises network management information regarding the network resources not excluded by said security filter and display filter [0028].

Dobbins does disclose a service provider network, but does not expressly disclose the service network or the resources are included in a partitioned network. Dobbins does not

expressly disclose that the display filter is not subject to editing by the service provider.

Finally, Dobbins also does not disclose a module library.

7> As to the partitioned network feature, Lim is directed towards a system enabling a service provider to manage its services partition its network resources into different networks associated with different customers [column 1 «lines 37-62» | column 20 «lines 61-62»]. Lim discloses network resources of a partitioned network allocated to a customer with the partitioned network including at least a portion of said service provider network [column 25-29» | column 21 «lines 28 and 46-64» | column 22 «lines 24-40»]. In other words Dobbins discloses an invention that enables management and monitoring of network resources. Lim discloses an invention that enables management and monitoring of network resources utilizing a partitioned network for each customer. Lim discloses that benefits of partitioning networks includes providing a more service-oriented view and enabling more efficient management of resources.

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Dobbins' management system to include the partitioned networks taught by Lim. As discussed, incorporating partitioned networks would provide an expected benefit to Dobbins by providing a service provider the ability to divide network resources and allocate them to customers. The combination of Dobbins and Lim discloses Applicant's invention in the manner claimed.

8> As to the display filter feature, Szabo is directed to a system providing personalized data access to users, through for example, portals [column 86 «lines 13-34» | column 90 «lines 12-23»]. Szabo discloses a display filter (analogous to a user's profile) is not subject to the control of the service provider [abstract : "physical and algorithmic controls over access to the personal profiles | column 41 «lines 1-9» where : the user controls who has access to his user profile. This user profile is analogous to Applicant's display filter and Dobbins' subscriber profile]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate Szabo's teachings into Dobbins. One would have been motivated to modify Dobbins' profile to be more secure as taught by Szabo to enhance the security over who has access to the profile's information.

9> As to the module library feature, Rangarajan is directed to providing a customizable GUI to a user [abstract]. Further, Rangarajan discloses that a user can select from a set of features to configure the GUI, where such features are represented as modules on the GUI [Figure 5 «items 505, 509, 511» | Figure 9 «items 905, 907»]. The features are selected from a "library" or a set of features [column 2 «lines 1-13»]. Once a user has selected the features (or modules), the configuration is stored in the user's profile [column 8 «lines 12-33»]. Thus, Rangarajan discloses a module library as claimed by Applicant.

Rangarajan's feature set library would improve Dobbins by placing all of Dobbins' services within a feature library to allow easier selection by the subscriber. Dobbins discloses parsing the customer's configuration record and parsing the record for a management information module [Figure 12 : disclosing network management information are stored in

the configuration record]. Dobbins does disclose that a user can select from a variety of available services [0024], some of these services including logging, billing and monitoring services [0028]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have modified Dobbins to include Rangarajan's feature set into Dobbins' portal. Rangarajan enables a user to customize the functionality of the GUI to meet the user's needs [column 1 «lines 65-67»].

10> As to claim 22, Dobbins as modified by Lim, Szabo, and Rangarajan discloses a method wherein applying said security filter comprises applying:

applying a customer sub-filter to provide an association of said corresponding customer and said network resources contained in said partitioned network allocated to the customer [Dobbins, 0009 : content access rule | see also Lim, column 9 «lines 18-27» | column 10 «lines 24-42» : "...data associated with the customer are polled by the system..."].

11> As to claim 23, Dobbins as modified by Lim and Szabo does not explicitly disclose an alarm module. Dobbins does disclose logging services that enable notifying administrators of a critical log message [0028]. Additionally, Rangarajan discloses an alarm module configured to display information regarding alarm conditions occurring in said non-excluded resources [Figure 5 «item 509» | column 5 «lines 50-53» | column 10 «lines 6-10» : wherein the devices correspond to network resources and clients are only able to work with resources that have been assigned to them (excluded resources)]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate Rangarajan's alarm module into Dobbins' management system

to allow users to select nodes that would enable monitoring of alarm conditions in the network resources to which they only have access. One would have motivated to perform such an implementation enable users to more efficiently manage resources.

12> As to claim 24, Dobbins as modified by Lim and Szabo does not explicitly disclose a topology module configured to display at least a graphical representation of network elements and connections between said network elements included in said non-excluded network resources. However, such a feature was well known in the art at the time of Applicant's invention.

Rangarajan discloses providing a topology module configured to display at least a graphical representation of network elements and connections between said network elements [Figure 9 «item 905» | column 6 «lines 27-36» | column 7 «lines 21-24»].

Furthermore, Lim discloses resources that can only be utilized by customers with the property authority. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate Rangarajan's topology module into Dobbins' management system to allow users to more clearly see a map of the configuration of network resources to which they only have access in the network. One would have been motivated to perform such an implementation as such a map would allow users to more effectively manage the network resources.

13> As to claim 25, Dobbins as modified by Lim and Szabo does not explicitly disclose a network health module configured to display a status or health report of said non-excluded network resources. Dobbins does disclose monitoring services that enable an administrator to

“observe operating performance” [0028]. Additionally, Rangarajan discloses a network health module configured to display a status or health report of said non-excluded network resources [Figure 9 «item 907» : “critical, major, minor..”]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate Rangarajan’s health module into Lim’s data access system to allow users to keep track and remotely monitor network resources as needed.

14> As to claim 26, Dobbins discloses a method for filtering on-line service information presented through a management portal to a customer of customized network services provided by resources of a service provider network, comprising:

storing, in a configuration database accessible by a service provider and not the customer, security filters each specifying network resources of a partitioned network allocated to a corresponding customer [0010, 0017, 0023];

providing a plurality of modules each configured to provide a respective portal display of on-line service information [0021, 0024, 0027];

storing, in a filter library accessible to the customer, display filters each configured by the customer [0039-0043] to specify customer-selected network resources to which selected ones of said plurality of modules it to be applied [0010, 0017, 0023, 0036];

displaying a portal display of on-line service information generated from application of one of said plurality of modules to network resources resulting from application to the service provider network of a security filter corresponding to the customer and at least one said display filters [0009, 0010, 0017, 0023, 0036, 0037], and wherein the displayed on-line service information comprises network management information regarding the network

resources not excluded by said security filter and display filter [0028 : see response above for discussion].

Dobbins does not expressly disclose partitioning the service provider network into a plurality of partitioned networks nor does he disclose allocating one of said partitioned networks to the customer. Dobbins does not expressly disclose that the display filter is not subject to editing by the service provider. Finally, Dobbins also does not disclose a module library.

As to the partitioned network feature, see the rejection of claim 21 and the combination of Dobbins and Lim, above. As to the display filter feature, see the rejection of claim 21 and the combination of Dobbins and Szabo, above. As to the module library feature, see the rejection of claim 21 and the combination of Dobbins and Rangarajan, above.

15> As to claim 27, Dobbins as modified by Lim, Szabo, and Rangarajan discloses a method wherein applying said security filter comprises applying:

applying a customer sub-filter to provide an association of said corresponding customer and said network resources contained in said partitioned network allocated to the customer [Dobbins, 0009 : content access rule | see also Lim, column 9 «lines 18-27» | column 10 «lines 24-42» : "...data associated with the customer are polled by the system..."].

16> As to claim 28, Dobbins, as modified by Lim, Szabo and Rangarajan discloses a customer sub-filter that is configured to filter on at least one of a node level and interface

level of said service provider network [Dobbins, 0052, 0110 : “subscriber’s interface” | also see Lim, column 4 «lines 52-62» | column 5 «lines 1-24» : see Lim’s interfaces].

17> As to claim 30, Dobbins discloses specifying an internet protocol interface sub-filter of said security filter, said IP interface sub-filter configured to filter on an IP address of a network device [0022].

18> As to claim 31, Dobbins and Lim do disclose utilizing sub-filters [see Dobbins, applying the security filter to the user, the applying a profile filter based on user preferences], but do not explicitly disclose a node selection sub-filter. Rangarajan discloses a node selection sub-filter of said display filter, said node selection sub-filter configured to filter on network nodes of the service provider network [column 6 «lines 27-33» | column 7 «lines 10-14»]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate Rangarajan’s node filtering functionality into Dobbins’ management system to enable users to manage network devices through a user selected view of the nodes in the network.

19> As to claim 32, Dobbins discloses the method of claim 26 further comprising specifying an interface selection sub-filter of said display filter, said interface selection sub-filter configured to filter one of a set of at least one network interfaces [0052].

20> As to claim 33, Dobbins and Lim do not explicitly disclose an alarm module. Rangarajan discloses an alarm module configured to display alarm conditions in network

resources to which said alarm module is applied [Figure 5 «item 509» | column 10 «lines 6-10» : wherein the devices correspond to network resources]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate Rangarajan's alarm module into Dobbins' management system to allow users to select nodes that would enable monitoring of alarm conditions in the network resources. One would have motivated to perform such an implementation enable users to more efficiently manage resources.

21> As to claim 34, Dobbins and Lim do not explicitly disclose an alarm sub-filter. Rangarajan discloses storing an alarm sub-filter of the display filter, said alarm sub-filter providing filtering capability of a display of alarm categories [column 6 «lines 27-36» | column 7 «lines 37-61»: "selected fault list"]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate Rangarajan's alarm sub-filter into Dobbins' management system to enable users to select specific faults that they wish to keep track of in their management system.

22> As to claim 35, Dobbins and Lim do not explicitly disclose providing a topology module. Rangarajan discloses providing a topology module configured to display at least a graphical representation of network elements and connections between said network elements [Figure 9 «item 905» | column 6 «lines 27-36» | column 7 «lines 21-24»]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate Rangarajan's topology module into Dobbins' management system to allow users to more clearly see a map of the configuration of network resources in the network. One would have been motivated to

perform such an implementation as such a map would allow users to more effectively manage the network resources.

23> As to claim 36, Dobbins and Lim do not explicitly disclose storing a topology map sub-filter. Rangarajan discloses storing a topology map sub-filter of the display filter, said topology map sub-filter configured to identify which of said network elements and network element connections to include in said topology map [Figure 9 «item 905» | column 6 «lines 27-36» | column 7 «lines 21-24 and 37-61»]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate Rangarajan's topology sub-filter into Dobbins' management system to allow users to control over what network devices are seen on a map of the network. One would have been motivated to perform such an implementation as such a map would allow users to more effectively manage the network resources.

24> As to claim 37, Dobbins discloses providing a network health module configured to display a status or health report network resources to which said network health module is applied [0028].

25> As to claim 38, Dobbins discloses storing a network health sub-filter of the display filter, said network health sub-filter configured to identify which of said network elements to monitor for said status and health report [0028, 0133].

26> As to claim 39, Dobbins discloses invoking said security filter by parsing a customer record in said user configuration database [0027, 0028].

27> As to claim 40, Dobbins discloses invoking said display filter by invoking said selected module [0053].

28> As to claims 41-43, 45, 47, 52 and 53, as they are merely systems that implement the steps of the method of claims 26-28, 30, 32, 37 and 38, they do not teach or further define over the claimed limitations. Therefore, claims 41-43, 45, 47, 52 and 53 are rejected for the same reasons as set forth for claims 26-28, 30, 32, 37 and 38, supra.

29> As to claims 46 and 48-51, as they are merely systems that implement the steps of the method of claims 31 and 33-36, they do not teach or further define over the claimed limitations. Therefore, claims 46 and 48-51 are rejected for the same reasons as set forth for claims 31 and 33-36, supra.

30> Claims 29 and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dobbins, Lim, Szabo, and Rangarajan, in further view of Teijido et al, U.S Patent No. 2002|0053020 ["Teijido"].

31> As to claim 29, Dobbins as modified by Lim, Szabo, and Rangarajan does not explicitly disclose specifying an internet protocol host sub-filter of said security filter, said IP

host sub-filter configured to filter on a network name of a network device. Teijido discloses an internet protocol host sub-filter of said security filter, said IP host sub-filter configured to filter on a network name of a network device [0049, 0070 : "...limit access to only a predefined specific set of client machines."; "...host id"]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate Teijido's host sub-filter into Dobbins' management system to provide a level of security in accessing and viewing network resources. Such an implementation would ensure that the data can be tailored to a specific set of client machines.

32> As to claim 44, as it does not teach or further define over the previously claimed limitations, it is rejected for the reasons set forth for claim 29, supra.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the

Application/Control Number:
09/843,760
Art Unit: 2152

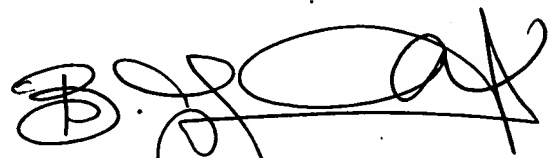
Page 18

advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dohm Chankong whose telephone number is 571.272.3942. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday [8:30 AM to 4:30 PM].

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bunjob Jaroenchonwanit can be reached on 571.272.3913. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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